



LISKA ASSOCIATES

Governmental Advocacy for Non-Profits

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AT PUBLIC HEARING

RE: SENATE BILL 1328
FROM: The Michigan Humane Society
represented by Eileen Liska
TO: House Agriculture Committee
DATE: November 28, 2006

The Michigan Humane Society maintains that it is not possible to humanely and properly operate a full-service private humane society shelter, or a public animal control shelter, both of which handle hundreds or thousands of animals annually without being able to use animal tranquilizers.

Among other things, these drugs are vitally necessary to:

facilitate the capture of both wild and domestic, including aggressive, animals-at-large;

calm aggressive or frightened animals in order for people to be able to handle and/or examine them;

sedate animals prior to medical examinations or treatments for injuries or illnesses;

calm or sedate animals prior to being injected with euthanasia drugs.

In fact, most well-operated shelters in Michigan have been using animal tranquilizers---either through veterinarians on-site, or vets who have obtained the drugs and shown shelter staff how to properly utilize and administer them.

But many smaller public and private shelters do not have vets on-site, or even available to help them on a regular basis.

Thus, the time is long overdue for a uniform policy to be established whereby licensed vets can (without liability) instruct shelter staff on the acquisition and use of animal tranquilizers without said vets needing to be on-site.

We urge this committee to vote in favor of SB1328.